

## *Chapter 2*

### *How We Compare: The City of Houston, the Region, the State, and the Nation*

## How We Compare Nationally

### Population and Density

Today, 1,953,631 people of all ages, ethnicities, and household types call the City of Houston home. Compared to the top 10 cities in the nation, Houston is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest city in terms of population. Between 1990 and 2000, Houston experienced approximately a 20% change in population (321,865 persons), exceeding the growth rates of New York, Los Angeles and Chicago. (See Table 2.1 and Figure 2.1 below)

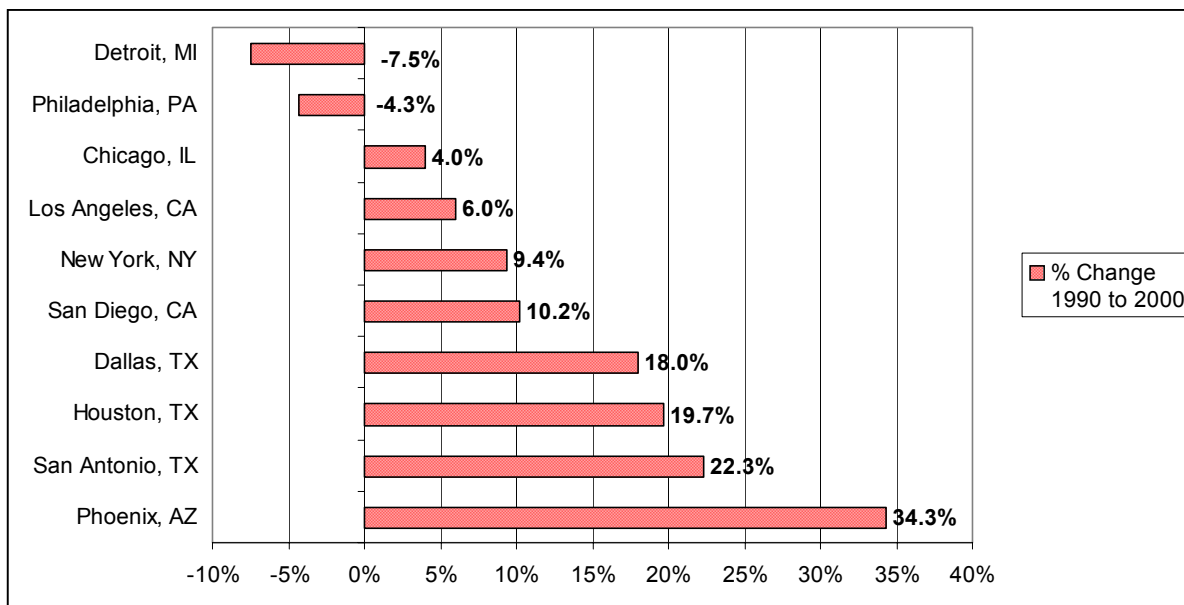
As Houston increased in size and population, it also increased in density. In 2000, Houston had 3,161 persons/square mile. However, because of its enormous size, Houston has one of the lowest densities/square mile compared to New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, which have between 17,000 and 7,400 persons per square mile.

**Table 2.1.**  
**1990/2000 Population and Density: Major US Cities**

City	Total Population			Square Miles		Persons Per Sq. Mi.	
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	1990	2000
New York	7,322,564	8,008,278	9.4%	308	469	23,775	17,080
Los Angeles	3,485,398	3,694,820	6.0%	469	498	7,430	7,415
Chicago	2,783,726	2,896,016	4.0%	227	234	12,252	12,376
<b>HOUSTON</b>	<b>1,631,766</b>	<b>1,953,631</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>2,807</b>	<b>3,161</b>
Philadelphia	1,585,577	1,517,550	-4.3%	135	140	11,736	10,877
Phoenix	983,403	1,321,045	34.3%	420	475	2,342	2,781
San Diego	1,110,549	1,223,400	10.2%	324	372	3,428	3,288
Dallas	1,006,877	1,188,580	18.0%	342	377	2,941	3,156
San Antonio	935,933	1,144,646	22.3%	333	412	2,811	2,778
Detroit	1,027,974	951,270	-7.5%	139	143	7,411	6,655

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

**Figure 2.1.**  
**Major US Cities Population Change 1990 to 2000**



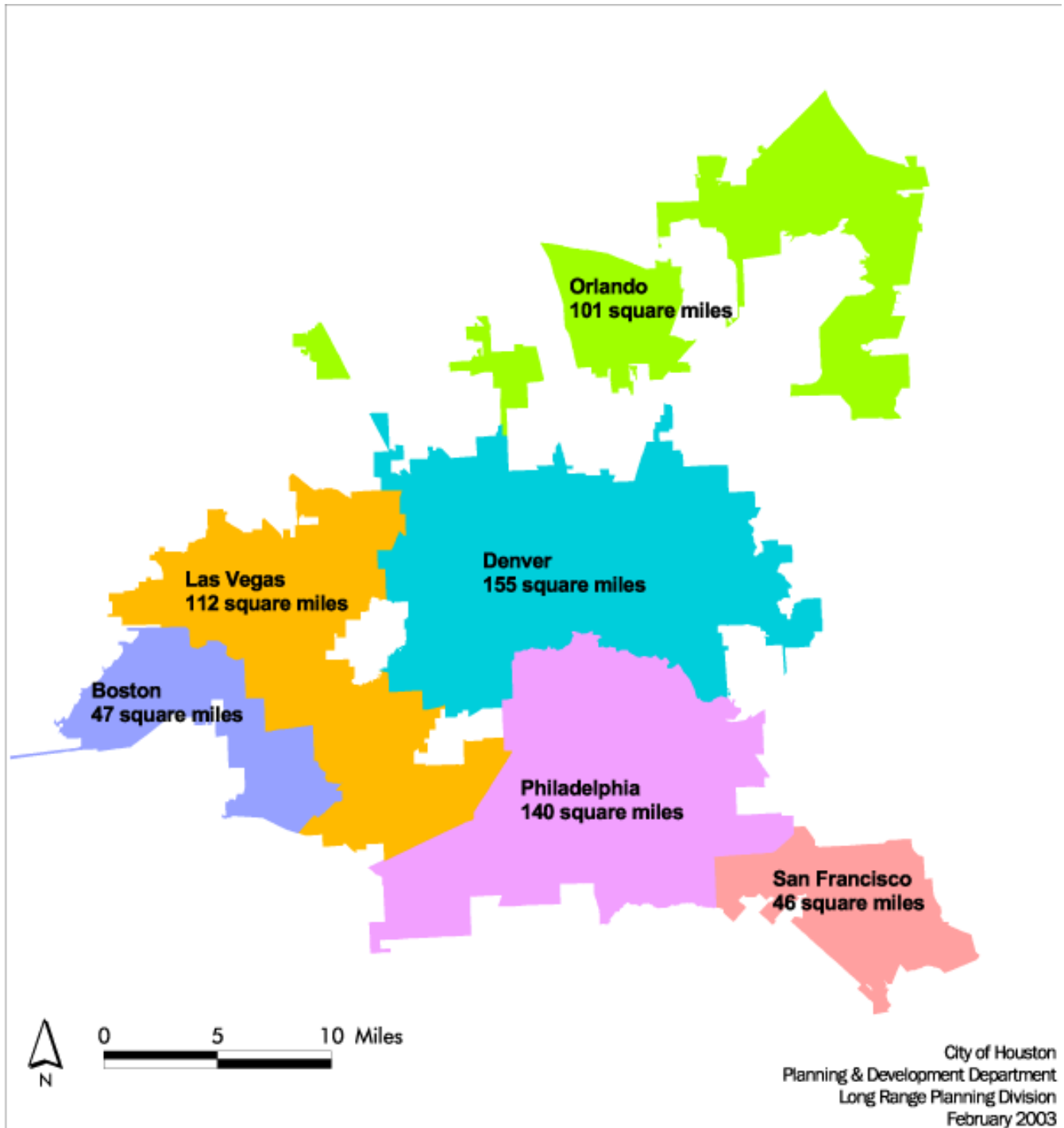
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

## How We Compare Nationally

At 618 square miles, Houston has the largest area of all major US cities. Annexations (particularly the Kingwood subdivision) in the later part of the decade increased the City's size by 37 square miles between 1990 and 2000.

To get a better understanding of the immense size of Houston, consider that nine of the nation's large cities can fit within Houston's corporate boundaries. (See Map 2.1 below.)

**Map 2.1. Houston Land Area Compared to Other U. S. Cities**



# How We Compare Nationally

## Race and Ethnicity

Among the five largest cities in the country (New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia), population growth between 1990-2000 was due primarily to significant increases in the Hispanic and Asian population. Although Dallas, Phoenix and San Diego have experienced more than 100% increase in Hispanic population, Houston also had a very large increase in the Hispanic population (over 62%). In terms of real numbers, New York gained the highest with about 423,000 persons, followed by Los Angeles with 348,000 and Houston 280,000.

decrease in the Black population as well. With the exception of Phoenix and San Antonio, the White population decreased in all the other Cities, Detroit losing the most (about 53%). See Table 2.2 below.

Although Houston had an astounding 62.2% increase in Hispanic population, it already by 1990 had a larger percentage of Hispanics than the U.S. as a whole, a characteristic which did not change in 2000. See Figure 2.2 on the following page.

All five cities saw modest to moderate decrease in the White population; and Los Angeles and Chicago saw a

**Table 2.2.**  
**1990/2000 Race/Ethnicity: Major US Cities**

City	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
<b>New York</b>	3,178,712	2,801,267	1,874,892	1,962,154	1,737,927	2,160,554	511,436	800,379
% Change		-11.9%		4.7%		24.3%		56.5%
<b>Los Angeles</b>	1,305,647	1,099,188	460,893	401,986	1,370,476	1,719,073	339,137	378,231
% Change		-15.8%		-12.8%		25.4%		11.5%
<b>Chicago</b>	1,063,281	907,166	1,076,099	1,053,739	535,315	753,664	105,668	129,662
% Change		-14.7%		-2.1%		40.8%		22.7%
<b>HOUSTON</b>	<b>662,766</b>	<b>601,851</b>	<b>448,148</b>	<b>487,851</b>	<b>450,556</b>	<b>730,865</b>	<b>66,993</b>	<b>106,620</b>
% Change		<b>-9.2%</b>		<b>8.9%</b>		<b>62.2%</b>		<b>59.2%</b>
<b>Philadelphia</b>	827,703	644,395	626,782	646,143	84,186	128,928	45,320	70,522
% Change		-22.1%		3.1%		53.1%		55.6%
<b>Phoenix</b>	707,500	736,844	49,717	63,756	194,118	449,972	30,947	48,278
% Change		4.1%		28.2%		131.8%		56.0%
<b>San Diego</b>	653,368	603,892	100,041	92,830	105,792	310,752	131,534	174,473
% Change		-7.6%		-7.2%		193.7%		32.6%
<b>Dallas</b>	482,194	410,777	293,995	304,824	204,758	422,587	24,623	35,698
% Change		-14.8%		3.7%		106.4%		45.0%
<b>San Antonio</b>	340,798	364,357	63,992	74,778	517,980	671,394	11,767	20,414
% Change		6.9%		16.9%		29.6%		73.5%
<b>Detroit</b>	212,804	99,921	775,833	771,966	26,957	47,167	11,045	11,876
% Change		-53.0%		-0.5%		75.0%		7.5%

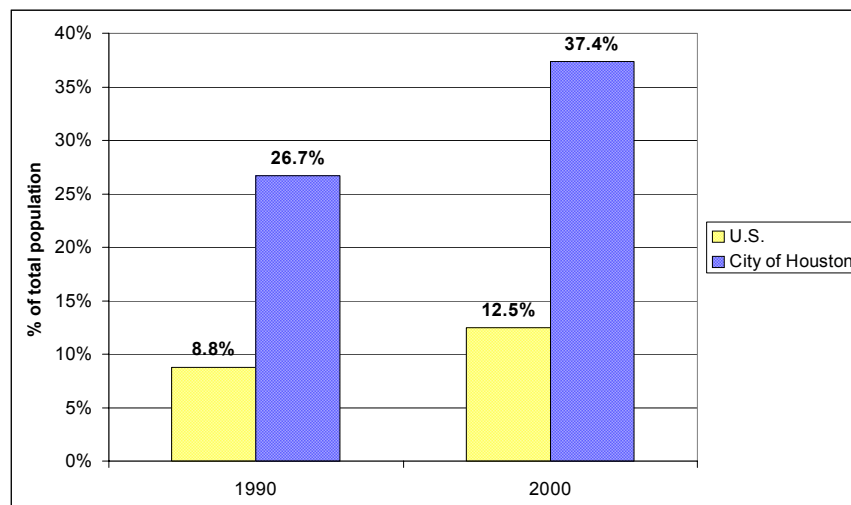
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

Note: "Other" category is not included.

"Asian" includes American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander categories

## How We Compare Nationally

**Figure 2.2.**  
**Percentage of Hispanic Population: Houston and U.S.**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

## Housing

Among the top ten cities in the country, housing occupancy rates are very high (89%-96%). (See Table 2.3 below.) Owner occupancy, however, is between 30% and 60%, with Houston ranking 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation in this category. Similar to other large cities, within this decade, Houston had a very small (1.2%) increase in owner-occupied units. This equates to 54,000 units.

In 2000, Houston ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> nationally in housing affordability. Only Philadelphia and San Antonio have lower median housing values (adjusted for inflation). See Table 2.4 on the following page.

**Table 2.3.**  
**1990/2000 Housing Occupancy: Major US Cities**

City	Total Units		Occupied Units		Vacant Units		Owner-Occ.		Renter-Occ.	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
<b>New York</b>	2,992,169	3,200,912	94.2%	94.4%	5.8%	5.6%	28.6%	30.2%	71.4%	69.8%
<b>Los Angeles</b>	1,299,963	1,337,706	93.6%	95.3%	6.4%	4.7%	39.4%	38.6%	60.6%	61.4%
<b>Chicago</b>	113,039	1,152,868	90.5%	92.1%	9.5%	7.9%	41.5%	43.8%	58.5%	56.2%
<b>HOUSTON</b>	<b>726,435</b>	<b>782,009</b>	<b>84.9%</b>	<b>91.8%</b>	<b>15.1%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>44.6%</b>	<b>45.8%</b>	<b>55.4%</b>	<b>54.2%</b>
<b>Philadelphia</b>	674,899	603,899	89.4%	89.1%	10.6%	10.9%	61.9%	59.3%	38.1%	40.7%
<b>Phoenix</b>	422,036	369,921	87.7%	93.9%	12.3%	6.1%	59.1%	60.7%	40.9%	39.3%
<b>San Diego</b>	431,722	469,689	94.1%	96.0%	5.9%	4.0%	48.3%	49.5%	51.7%	50.5%
<b>Dallas</b>	465,600	402,060	86.4%	93.3%	13.6%	6.7%	44.1%	43.2%	55.9%	56.8%
<b>San Antonio</b>	365,414	433,122	89.4%	93.6%	10.6%	6.4%	54.0%	58.1%	46.0%	41.9%
<b>Detroit</b>	410,027	375,096	91.2%	89.7%	8.8%	10.3%	52.9%	54.9%	47.1%	45.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

## How We Compare Nationally

**Table 2.4.**  
**1990/2000 Housing Value: Major US Cities**

City	Median Housing Value	
	1990*	2000
New York	\$245,675	\$211,900
Los Angeles	\$316,535	\$221,600
Chicago	\$106,025	\$132,400
<b>HOUSTON</b>	<b>\$75,588</b>	<b>\$79,300</b>
Philadelphia	\$64,848	\$59,700
Phoenix	\$104,512	\$112,600
San Diego	\$250,600	\$233,100
Dallas	\$104,187	\$89,800
San Antonio	\$66,267	\$68,800
Detroit	\$34,308	\$63,600

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

\*Note: 1990 Housing values have been adjusted to inflation

### Income and Poverty Status

Of the nation's ten largest cities, after adjusting for inflation, Houston registered an increase in median household income (nearly 7%) while New York, Los Angeles and Philadelphia registered a decrease. (See Table 2.5 below.) In 2000, Houston ranked 7<sup>th</sup> nationally in median household income, 6<sup>th</sup> in median family income and

5<sup>th</sup> in per capita income. Relative to individual poverty, Houston ranks 6<sup>th</sup> among the top ten cities in the country. Among the four largest cities, only Houston and Chicago registered a decrease in the percentage of persons in poverty.

**Table 2.5.**  
**1990/2000 Income and Poverty Status: Major US Cities**

City	Median Household Income		Median Family Income		Per Capita Income		% Individuals Below Poverty Level	
	1990*	2000	1990*	2000	1990*	2000	1990	2000
New York	\$38,643	\$38,293	\$44,522	\$41,887	\$21,096	\$22,402	19.3%	21.2%
Los Angeles	\$40,036	\$36,687	\$44,488	\$39,942	\$20,957	\$20,671	18.8%	22.1%
Chicago	\$35,433	\$38,625	\$41,368	\$42,724	\$17,378	\$20,175	21.6%	19.6%
<b>HOUSTON</b>	<b>\$34,224</b>	<b>\$36,616</b>	<b>\$39,420</b>	<b>\$40,443</b>	<b>\$18,586</b>	<b>\$20,101</b>	<b>20.7%</b>	<b>19.2%</b>
Philadelphia	\$32,964	\$30,746	\$40,382	\$37,036	\$16,200	\$16,509	20.3%	22.9%
Phoenix	\$39,705	\$41,207	\$46,321	\$46,467	\$19,108	\$19,833	14.1%	15.8%
San Diego	\$44,571	\$45,733	\$52,023	\$53,060	\$21,701	\$23,609	13.4%	14.6%
Dallas	\$36,345	\$37,628	\$42,210	\$40,921	\$21,551	\$22,183	17.9%	17.8%
San Antonio	\$31,445	\$36,214	\$35,847	\$41,331	\$14,512	\$17,487	22.6%	17.3%
Detroit	\$25,117	\$29,526	\$30,242	\$33,853	\$12,655	\$14,717	32.4%	26.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

\*Note: 1990 Incomes have been adjusted to inflation

## How We Compare Across the State

### Population and Density Statewide

Among Texas' largest cities (Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, Fort Worth and El Paso), Houston is the State's largest city in terms of population, size and number of persons per square mile. (See Table 2.6 below.) Among these six cities, San Antonio has the biggest increase in square miles (23.7%), followed by Austin (18.3%) and Dallas (10.2%). Nevertheless, Houston remains Texas's largest city in size.

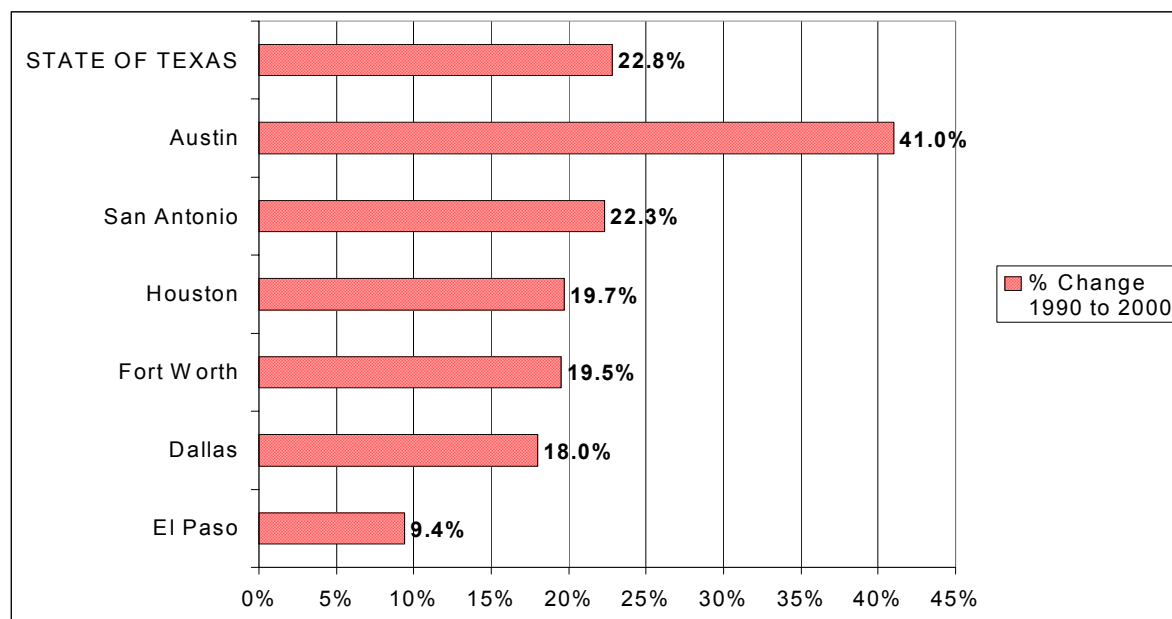
Houston's population growth was surpassed only by Austin and San Antonio in terms of percentage change. In actual number, however, Houston's population increase was approximately 100,000 greater than all the largest Texas cities. Of the State's six major cities, only Austin experienced the highest gain in population (41.0%); El Paso had the least (9.4%) during 1990 and 2000. Dallas, Fort Worth and San Antonio experienced about 2% above or below Houston's percentage change in population. See Figure 2.3 below.

**Table 2.6.**  
**1990/2000 Population and Density: Major Cities in Texas**

City	Total Population			Square Miles		Persons Per Sq. Mi.	
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	1990	2000
<b>Austin</b>	465,622	656,562	41.0%	218	258	2,136	2,610
<b>Dallas</b>	1,006,877	1,188,580	18.0%	342	377	2,941	3,156
<b>El Paso</b>	515,342	563,662	9.4%	245	251	2,103	2,263
<b>Fort Worth</b>	447,619	534,694	19.5%	281	299	1,593	1,828
<b>HOUSTON</b>	<b>1,631,766</b>	<b>1,953,631</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>2,807</b>	<b>3,161</b>
<b>San Antonio</b>	935,933	1,144,646	22.3%	333	412	2,811	2,778
<b>STATE OF TEXAS</b>	16,986,510	20,851,820	22.8%	267,277	267,277	64	78

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000, County and City Data Book, 1994

**Figure 2.3.**  
**Major Texas Cities Population Change 1990 to 2000**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

## How We Compare Across the State

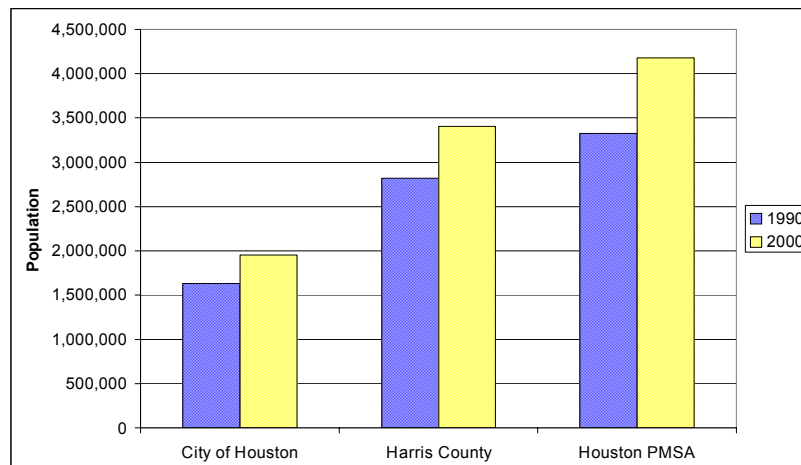
Historically, Houston, Harris County and the Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) have registered an upward growth trend over the past 50 years. The oil boom and bust of the 1980's, however, significantly affected Houston's growth in the period between 1980 and 1990. By the end of the decade, Houston's population growth kept pace with Harris County and the PMSA. Within the six-county region, population increased from 3,322,025 in 1990 to 4,177,646 in 2000. See Table 2.7 and Figure 2.4 below.

**Table 2.7.**  
**1990/2000 Population and Density:**  
**Houston, Harris County, and Houston PMSA**

Area	Total Population			Square Miles		Persons Per Sq. Mi.	
	1990	2000	% Change	1990	2000	1990	2000
<b>HOUSTON</b>	<b>1,631,766</b>	<b>1,953,631</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>2,807</b>	<b>3,161</b>
<b>Harris County</b>	2,818,199	3,400,578	20.7%	1,729	1,729	1,630	1,967
<b>Houston PMSA</b>	3,322,025	4,177,646	25.8%	5,921	5,921	561	706

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000, County and City Data Book, 1994  
PMSA (Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area) consists of six counties

**Figure 2.4.**  
**Houston Area Population Change 1990 to 2000**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000



## How We Compare Across the State

### Race and Ethnicity

The growth of Black population remained stable in the Metro areas and the State relative to its proportion of other ethnic groups. (See Table 2.8 below.) However, the City had a slightly lower proportion in 2000 compared to 1990. While most of the cities registered a decrease in White population, Hispanic and Asian population showed a high rate of increase. Dallas in particular registered over 100% growth in the Hispanic population compared to Houston's 62.2%. (See Figure 2.5 on the following page.)

**Table 2.8.**  
**1990/2000 Race/Ethnicity: Major Texas Cities**

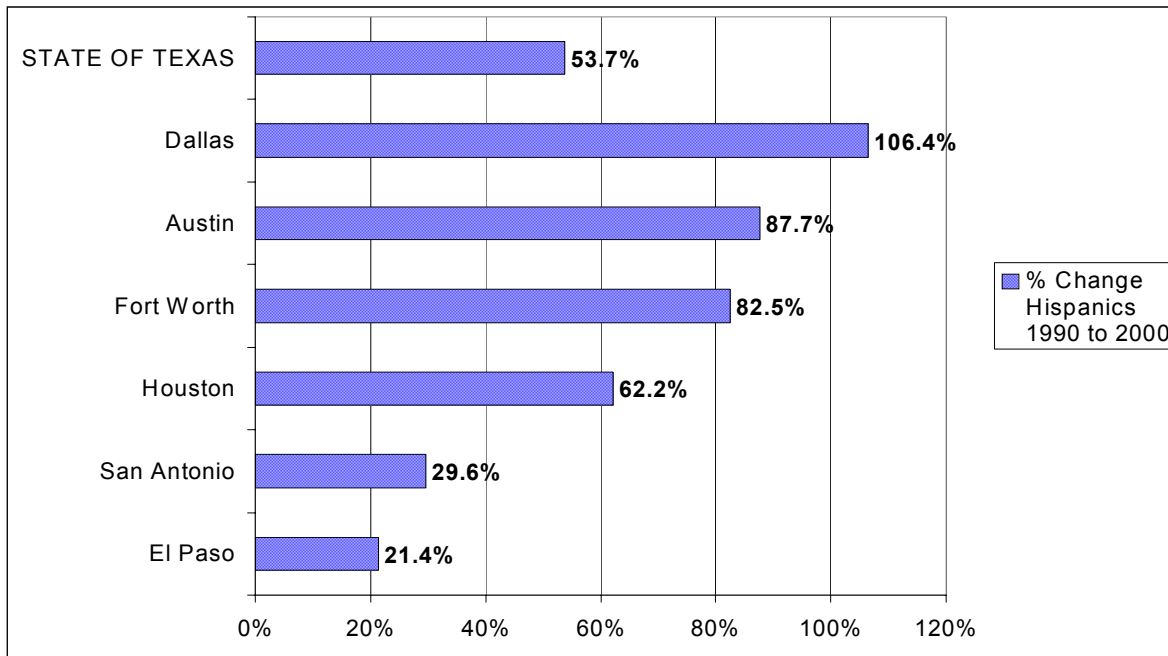
City	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
<b>Austin</b>	287,166	347,554	55,824	64,259	106,868	200,579	14,869	32,769
% Change		21.0%		15.1%		87.7%		120.4%
<b>Dallas</b>	482,194	410,777	293,995	304,824	204,758	422,587	24,623	35,698
% Change		-14.8%		3.7%		106.4%		45.0%
<b>El Paso</b>	136,002	103,422	16,283	15,768	355,669	431,875	6,760	7,868
% Change		-24.0%		-3.2%		21.4%		16.4%
<b>Fort Worth</b>	252,786	244,966	96,928	106,988	87,345	159,368	10,560	15,976
% Change		-3.1%		10.4%		82.5%		51.3%
<b>HOUSTON</b>	<b>662,766</b>	<b>601,851</b>	<b>448,148</b>	<b>487,851</b>	<b>450,556</b>	<b>730,865</b>	<b>66,993</b>	<b>106,620</b>
% Change		-9.2%		8.9%		62.2%		59.2%
<b>San Antonio</b>	340,798	364,357	63,992	74,778	517,980	671,394	11,767	20,414
% Change		6.9%		16.9%		29.6%		73.5%
<b>TEXAS</b>	10,291,680	10,933,313	1,976,360	2,364,255	4,339,905	6,669,666	356,628	634,061
% Change		6.2%		19.6%		53.7%		77.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

Note: "Other" category is not included.

"Asian" includes American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander categories

**Figure 2.5.**  
**Major Texas Cities Hispanic Population Change 1990 to 2000**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

Houston and Harris County registered a decline in White population of 9.2% and 6.3%, respectively during 1990 and 2000. (See Table 2.9 on the following page.) Hispanic and Asian populations were the fastest growing groups in Houston, Harris County and the Houston PMSA. The Black population experienced a modest change of 8.9%.

In the period between 1990 and 2000, the City and the County experienced a decrease in the White population; however, the PMSA experienced a 2.4% increase.

## How We Compare Across the State

**Table 2.9.**  
**1990/2000 Race and Ethnicity:**  
**Houston, Harris County, and Houston PMSA**

Area	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
<b>HOUSTON</b>	<b>662,766</b>	<b>601,851</b>	<b>448,148</b>	<b>487,851</b>	<b>450,556</b>	<b>730,865</b>	<b>66,993</b>	<b>106,620</b>
<b>% Change</b>		<b>-9.2%</b>		<b>8.9%</b>		<b>62.2%</b>		<b>59.2%</b>
<b>Harris County</b>	<b>1,528,113</b>	<b>1,432,264</b>	<b>527,964</b>	<b>619,964</b>	<b>644,935</b>	<b>1,119,751</b>	<b>112,470</b>	<b>181,521</b>
<b>% Change</b>		<b>-6.3%</b>		<b>17.4%</b>		<b>73.6%</b>		<b>61.4%</b>
<b>Houston PMSA</b>	<b>1,879,619</b>	<b>1,923,990</b>	<b>599,400</b>	<b>720,322</b>	<b>708,731</b>	<b>1,248,586</b>	<b>129,156</b>	<b>227,137</b>
<b>% Change</b>		<b>2.4%</b>		<b>20.2%</b>		<b>76.2%</b>		<b>75.9%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

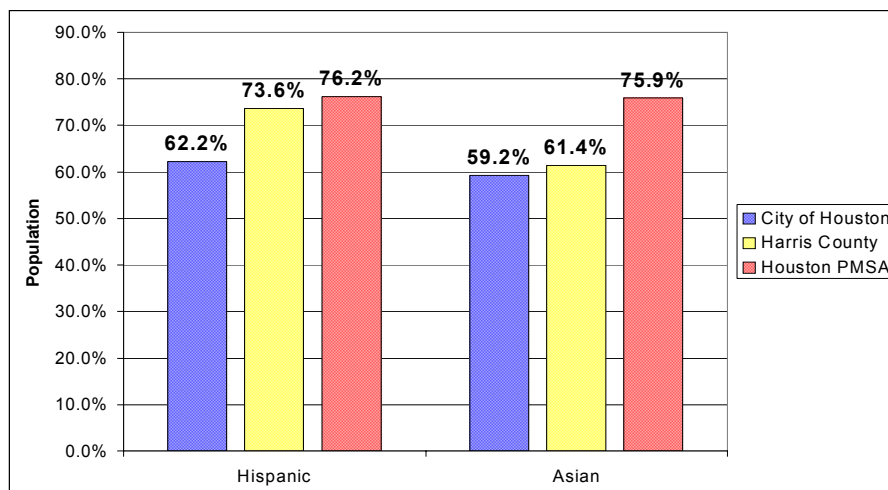
Note: "Other" category is not included.

"Asian" includes American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander categories

PMSA (Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area) consists of six counties

Figure 2.6 below shows percentage change in Hispanic and Asian population for Houston, Harris County and the Houston PMSA. The percentage gain in Hispanic and Asian population is much higher in the PMSA region between 1990 and 2000.

**Figure 2.6.**  
**Hispanic and Asian Population Change 1990 to 2000**  
**Houston, Harris County, and Houston PMSA**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

## How We Compare Across the State

### Housing

The total housing units in the City increased by 7.6% (55,574 units) between 1990 and 2000. Only San Antonio had a greater number of new housing units built between 1990 and 2000. (See Table 2.10 below.) Houston surpassed Austin and Dallas in percent owner-occupied housing units for the periods. Houston's vacancy rates dropped by 46%, the third highest drop among major Texas cities, following Dallas and Fort Worth.

In 2000 Houston had a lower percentage of owner-occupied housing units than Harris County and the PMSA. (See Table 2.11 below.) Relative to vacancy rates, Houston ranks second in terms of vacant units, following the State, down from 15% in 1990.

**Table 2.10.**  
**1990/2000 Housing Occupancy: Major Texas Cities**

City	Total Units		Occupied Units		Vacant Units		Owner-Occ.		Renter-Occ.	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
<b>Austin</b>	217,054	276,842	88.5%	96.0%	11.5%	4.0%	40.6%	44.8%	59.4%	55.2%
<b>Dallas</b>	465,600	484,117	86.4%	93.3%	13.6%	6.7%	44.1%	43.2%	55.9%	56.8%
<b>El Paso</b>	168,625	193,633	95.2%	94.0%	4.8%	6.0%	57.6%	61.4%	42.4%	38.6%
<b>Fort Worth</b>	194,429	211,035	86.5%	92.4%	13.5%	7.6%	54.5%	55.9%	45.5%	44.1%
<b>HOUSTON</b>	<b>726,435</b>	<b>782,009</b>	<b>84.9%</b>	<b>91.8%</b>	<b>15.1%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>44.6%</b>	<b>45.8%</b>	<b>55.4%</b>	<b>54.2%</b>
<b>San Antonio</b>	365,414	433,122	89.4%	93.6%	10.6%	6.4%	54.0%	58.1%	46.0%	41.9%
<b>TEXAS</b>	7,008,999	8,157,575	86.6%	90.6%	13.4%	9.4%	60.9%	63.8%	39.1%	36.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

**Table 2.11.**  
**1990/2000 Housing Occupancy:**  
**Houston, Harris County, and Houston PMSA**

Area	Total Units		Occupied Units		Vacant Units		Owner-Occ.		Renter-Occ.	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
<b>HOUSTON</b>	<b>726,435</b>	<b>782,009</b>	<b>84.9%</b>	<b>91.8%</b>	<b>15.1%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>44.6%</b>	<b>45.8%</b>	<b>55.4%</b>	<b>54.2%</b>
<b>Harris County</b>	1,173,808	1,298,130	87.4%	92.9%	12.6%	7.1%	52.0%	55.3%	48.0%	44.7%
<b>Houston PMSA</b>	1,363,882	1,575,541	87.5%	92.8%	12.5%	7.2%	55.1%	59.5%	44.9%	40.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

PMSA (Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area) consists of six counties

## How We Compare Across the State

Houston ranks fourth in terms of median housing value (\$79,300) for 2000. When adjusted for inflation, only San Antonio's 1990 median housing value (\$66,267) was lower than Houston's (\$75,588). See Table 2.12 and Figure 2.7 below.

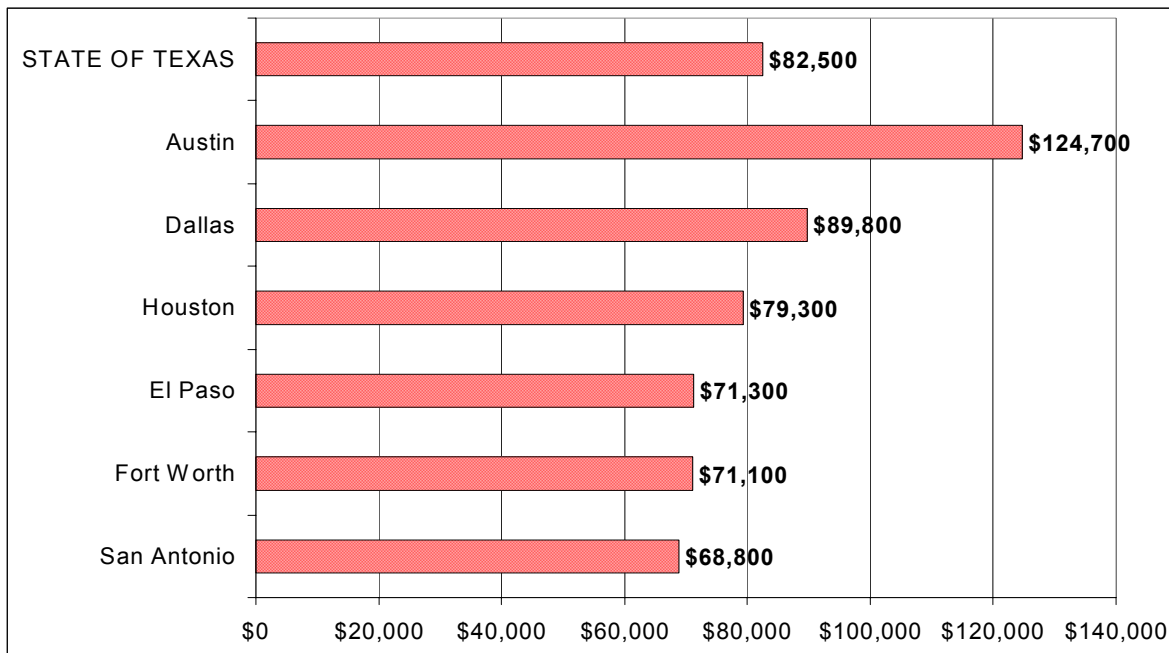
**Table 2.12.**  
**1990/2000 Housing Value Comparison: Major Texas Cities**

City	Median Housing Value	
	1990*	2000
<b>Austin</b>	\$95,298	\$124,700
<b>Dallas</b>	\$104,187	\$89,800
<b>El Paso</b>	\$76,002	\$71,300
<b>Fort Worth</b>	\$79,198	\$71,100
<b>HOUSTON</b>	<b>\$75,588</b>	<b>\$79,300</b>
<b>San Antonio</b>	\$66,267	\$68,800
<b>STATE OF TEXAS</b>	\$78,297	\$82,500

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

\*Note: 1990 Housing values have been adjusted to inflation

**Figure 2.7.**  
**2000 Median Housing Value: Major Texas Cities**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

## How We Compare Across the State

Compared to Harris County and the PMSA, the City of Houston has the lowest median housing value in 2000. (1990 housing values were adjusted for inflation.) See Table 2.13 and Figure 2.8 below.

**Table 2.13.**  
**1990/2000 Housing Value Comparison:**  
**Houston, Harris County, and Houston PMSA**

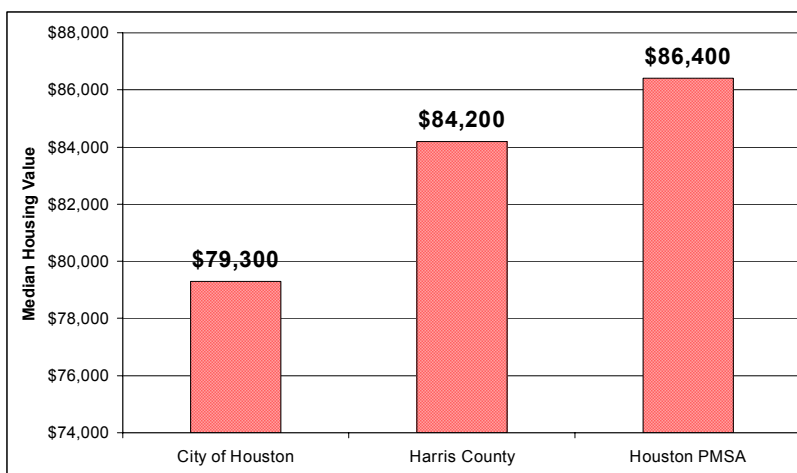
Area	Median Housing Value	
	1990*	2000
<b>HOUSTON</b>	<b>\$75,588</b>	<b>\$79,300</b>
<b>Harris County</b>	<b>\$82,756</b>	<b>\$84,200</b>
<b>Houston PMSA</b>	<b>\$83,277</b>	<b>\$86,400</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

\*Note: 1990 Housing values have been adjusted to inflation

PMSA (Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area) consists of six counties

**Figure 2.8.**  
**2000 Median Housing Value:**  
**Houston, Harris County, and Houston PMSA**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

PMSA (Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area) consists of six counties

## How We Compare Across the State

### Income and Poverty Status

Of all the major cities in Texas, only Austin registered a median household and family income higher than the State's. (See Table 2.14 below.) All the cities have experienced a decline in percentages for individuals below poverty level in 2000. Even though Houston's poverty level is higher than the State, Houston's rate has slightly declined from 20.7% to 19.2% between 1990 and 2000. Among the State's largest cities, Houston had the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest poverty rate in 2000.

Houston's median household income rose from \$34,224 to \$36,616 between 1990 and 2000. (Based on adjusting 1990 incomes for inflation.) The City's per capita income is lower than County and the PMSA region (see Table 2.15 below) but slightly higher than the State during the same period. Relative to poverty level, although the percentage of individuals below poverty dropped in 2000, Houston, nonetheless has the highest poverty rate of all three areas.

**Table 2.14.**  
**1990/2000 Income and Poverty Status: Major Texas Cities**

City	Median Household Income		Median Family Income		Per Capita Income		% Individuals Below Poverty Level	
	1990*	2000	1990*	2000	1990*	2000	1990	2000
<b>Austin</b>	\$33,359	\$42,689	\$43,949	\$54,091	\$18,764	\$24,163	17.9%	14.4%
<b>Dallas</b>	\$36,345	\$37,628	\$42,210	\$40,921	\$21,551	\$22,183	17.9%	17.8%
<b>El Paso</b>	\$30,795	\$32,124	\$33,022	\$35,432	\$12,605	\$14,388	25.3%	22.2%
<b>Fort Worth</b>	\$35,100	\$37,074	\$40,944	\$42,939	\$17,402	\$18,800	17.4%	15.9%
<b>HOUSTON</b>	<b>\$34,224</b>	<b>\$36,616</b>	<b>\$39,420</b>	<b>\$40,443</b>	<b>\$18,586</b>	<b>\$20,101</b>	<b>20.7%</b>	<b>19.2%</b>
<b>San Antonio</b>	\$31,445	\$36,214	\$35,847	\$41,331	\$14,512	\$17,487	22.6%	17.3%
<b>TEXAS</b>	\$35,777	\$39,927	\$41,785	\$45,861	\$17,089	\$19,617	17.7%	15.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

\*Note: 1990 Incomes have been adjusted to inflation

**Table 2.15.**  
**1990/2000 Income and Poverty Status:**  
**Houston, Harris County, and Houston PMSA**

City	Median Household Income		Median Family Income		Per Capita Income		% Individuals Below Poverty Level	
	1990*	2000	1990*	2000	1990*	2000	1990	2000
<b>HOUSTON</b>	<b>\$34,224</b>	<b>\$36,616</b>	<b>\$39,420</b>	<b>\$40,443</b>	<b>\$18,586</b>	<b>\$20,101</b>	<b>20.7%</b>	<b>19.2%</b>
<b>Harris County</b>	\$40,361	\$42,598	\$47,443	\$49,004	\$19,812	\$21,435	15.7%	15.0%
<b>Houston PMSA</b>	\$41,128	\$44,726	\$48,104	\$51,546	\$19,644	\$21,806	15.1%	13.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

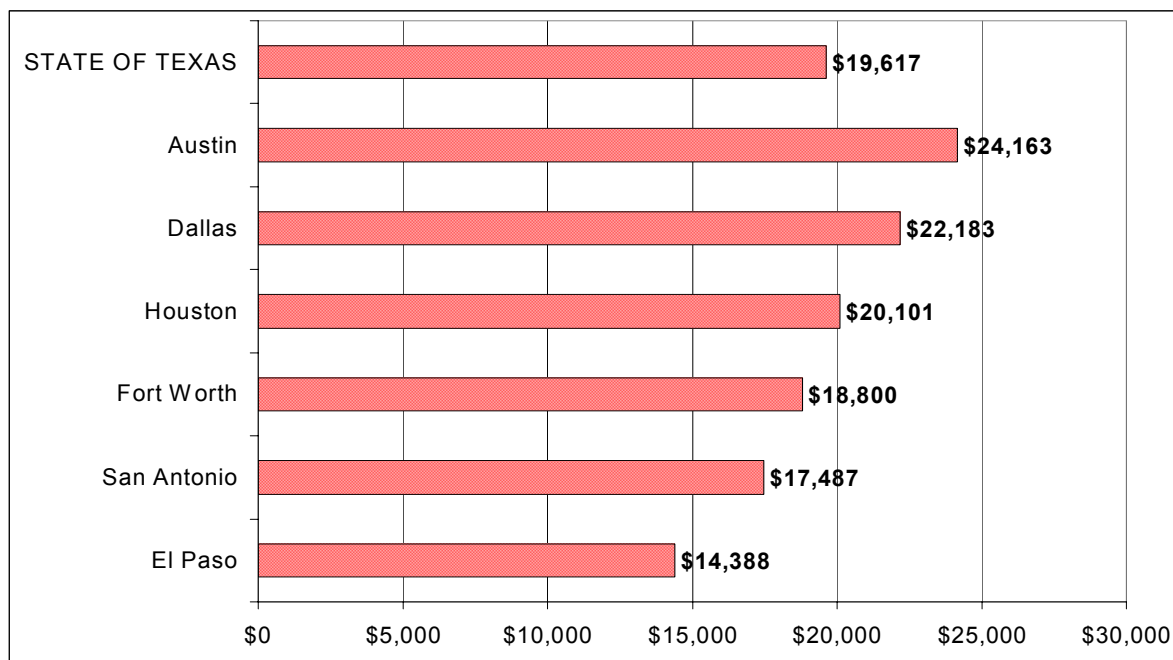
\*Note: 1990 Incomes have been adjusted to inflation

PMSA (Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area) consists of six counties

## How We Compare Across the State

Houston's per capita income is slightly higher (by \$484) in 2000 than the State's in 2000. El Paso, Fort Worth and San Antonio have per capita incomes lower than the State's. See Figure 2.9 below.

**Figure 2.9.**  
**2000 Per Capita Income: Major Texas Cities**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

## Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is measured relative to the total number of persons 25 years and over. See Table 2.16 on the following page. Although in this decade, this group increased by 16% (164,117), the number of persons without a high-school diploma remained about the same about 29.5% in both the periods. The percentage of persons with high-school diploma (22.0% in 1990) decreased slightly to 20.4% in 2000. The percentage of persons with graduate degrees increased only slightly by about 1% within the same period.

In 2000, the City however stayed at par with the PMSA and State in college and graduate degree holders categories, thereby retaining its share of highly skilled professionals. The proportion of persons with Bachelor's and higher degrees is higher than the State for the PMSA and the City.

Figure 2.10 on the following page depicts residents with some college and higher, in 2000, for the Houston metro area (51.7%) and the Nation (53.6%).



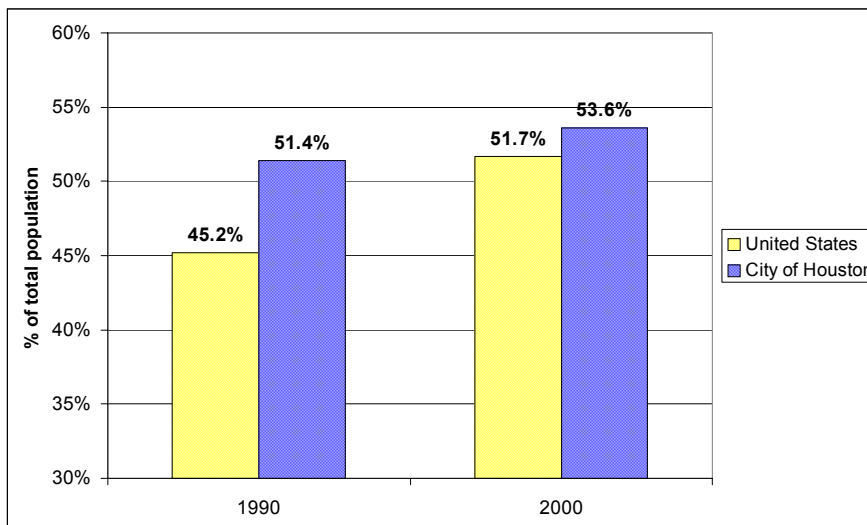
## How We Compare Across the State

**Table 2.16.**  
**1990/2000 Educational Attainment of Persons 25 and Over**  
**City of Houston, Houston PMSA, and State of Texas**

Educational Level Attained	City of Houston		Houston PMSA		State of Texas	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
No Diploma	29.5%	29.6%	24.9%	25.4%	27.9%	24.3%
High School Diploma	22.0%	20.4%	24.7%	21.6%	25.6%	24.8%
Some College	19.2%	19.1%	21.4%	21.3%	21.1%	22.4%
Associate/Bachelors Degree	20.8%	21.2%	22.1%	22.7%	19.0%	20.8%
Graduate/Professional	8.5%	9.7%	7.9%	9.0%	6.5%	7.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

**Figure 2.10.**  
**Percentage of Residents with Some College or higher**  
**City of Houston and United States, 1990 and 2000**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

## How We Compare Across the State

### Labor Force and Employment

Employment status is shown on Table 2.17 below. In 2000, the civilian labor force in the Houston PMSA was 1,900,732, 45.5 percent of the total PMSA population of 4,177,646. The labor force expanded by almost 18 percent since 1990.

Between 1990 and 2000, labor force participation in the Houston PMSA region was fueled by two related trends: 1) an increase of almost 26 percent in population of persons over 16 years of age and 2) an increase in the number of jobs. However, although the civilian labor force grew by almost 18 percent, the population not in the labor force grew even more by almost 45 percent. Proportionally, there were more people participating in the labor force in 1990 (69.3 percent of the population of 16 year old and more) than in 2000 with only 63.2 percent. This year, population not in the labor force increased to almost 35 percent from 30 percent in 1990. Because of job availability and a higher proportion of the population that did not participate in the labor force, the employment rate slightly increased from 91.6 percent in 1990 to 92.4 percent in 2000; and the unemployment rate decreased from 8.4 percent in 1990 to 7.6 percent in 2000.

tionally, there were more people participating in the labor force in 1990 (69.3 percent of the population of 16 year old and more) than in 2000 with only 63.2 percent. This year, population not in the labor force increased to almost 35 percent from 30 percent in 1990. Because of job availability and a higher proportion of the population that did not participate in the labor force, the employment rate slightly increased from 91.6 percent in 1990 to 92.4 percent in 2000; and the unemployment rate decreased from 8.4 percent in 1990 to 7.6 percent in 2000.

**Table 2.17.**  
**1990/2000 Status of Labor Force: City, County, and State**

Status	City of Houston		Harris County		State of Texas	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
<b>Not in Labor Force</b>	30.7%	36.8%	29.1%	34.4%	34.1%	36.4%
<b>In Labor Force</b>	69.3%	63.2%	70.9%	65.6%	65.9%	63.6%
<b>Employed</b>	91.6%	92.4%	93.0%	96.6%	92.8%	93.9%
<b>Unemployed</b>	8.4%	7.6%	7.0%	6.4%	7.2%	6.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

## How We Compare Across the State

Table 2.18 below shows employment by type of occupation. In 2000, about 63% of the people employed in the Houston PMSA region were occupied in managerial, professional, sales or office positions, which is slightly higher than the City's 60.3% and the State's 60.5%. The rest of the people, about 37%, were in occupations such as service, construction, repair, transportation and others. Compared to the PMSA, Houston's employment in service occupations is slightly higher by 2.1%.

**Table 2.18.**  
**2000 Employment by Occupation:**  
**City of Houston, Houston PMSA, and State of Texas**

Occupation	City of Houston		Houston PMSA		State of Texas	
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	Number	% of total
<b>Manage/Prof &amp; Related</b>	291,220	33.9%	670,768	35.3%	3,078,757	33.3%
<b>Sales and Office</b>	227,417	26.4%	525,056	27.6%	2,515,596	27.2%
<b>Services</b>	134,831	15.7%	257,806	13.6%	1,351,270	14.6%
<b>Prod/Transportation/Mov</b>	110,714	12.9%	236,687	12.5%	1,218,910	13.2%
<b>Construction/Extraction</b>	94,569	11.0%	206,879	10.9%	1,008,353	10.9%
<b>Farming/Fishing/Forestry</b>	1,210	0.1%	3,536	0.2%	61,486	0.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	859,961	100.0%	1,900,732	100.0%	9,234,372	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 & 2000

PMSA (Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area) consists of six counties